

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- a) an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - b) a naturally-occurring amino acid sequence having at least 96% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - c) a biologically-active fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - d) an immunogenic fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. An isolated polypeptide of claim 1, having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

3. An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 1.
4. A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 3.
5. A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 4.
6. A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:
 - a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and
 - b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.
7. An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.
8. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
 - b) a naturally-occurring polynucleotide sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

- c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to a),
- d) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to b) and
- e) a ribonucleotide equivalent of a)-d).

9. An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleic acids of claim 8.

10. A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 8, the method comprising:

- a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and
- b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

11. A method of claim 10, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

12. A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 8, the method comprising:

- a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and
- b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

13. A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 and an acceptable excipient.

14. A composition of claim 13, wherein the polypeptide has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

15. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

16. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

17. A method for screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a polynucleotide sequence of claim 8, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, under conditions suitable for the expression of the target polynucleotide,
- b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide, and
- c) comparing the expression of the target polynucleotide in the presence of varying amounts of the compound and in the absence of the compound.

18. A method for assessing toxicity of a test compound, said method comprising:

- a) treating a biological sample containing nucleic acids with the test compound;
- b) hybridizing the nucleic acids of the treated biological sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 8 under conditions whereby a specific hybridization complex is formed between said probe and a target polynucleotide in the biological sample, said target polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 8 or fragment thereof;
- c) quantifying the amount of hybridization complex; and

d) comparing the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample with the amount of hybridization complex in an untreated biological sample, wherein a difference in the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample is indicative of toxicity of the test compound.

19. A diagnostic test for a condition or disease associated with the expression of HSEBP in a biological sample comprising the steps of:

- a) combining the biological sample with an antibody of claim 7, under conditions suitable for the antibody to bind the polypeptide and form an antibody: polypeptide complex; and
- b) detecting the complex, wherein the presence of the complex correlates with the presence of the polypeptide in the biological sample.

20. The antibody of claim 7, wherein the antibody is:

- (a) a chimeric antibody;
- (b) a single chain antibody;
- (c) a Fab fragment;
- (d) a F(ab')₂ fragment; or
- (e) a humanized antibody.